

CLASSIFICATION ~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT **INFORMATION REPORT**

CD NO.

COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 29 September 1955

SUBJECT SED Fighting Groups, and GST Activities

NO. OF PAGES 3

PLACE
ACQUIREDNO. OF ENCLS.
(LIMITED BELOW)

25X1

DATE OF
INFO.SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE
OF THE UNITED STATES. WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793
AND 794, OF THE U. S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVEL-
ATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON
IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1

1. In mid-April 1955, when an instruction course for leaders of SED fighting groups was completed at Ludwigsfelde, it was learned that a total of 500 leaders of fighting groups were available in Berlin.¹
2. In mid-May, the VEB Berliner Bremsenwerk (nationalized brake plant) was declared a "Kampfgruppen-Stützpunkt" (fighting-group base). The individual platoons of the fighting groups were organized on the basis of the physical fitness and the possibility of rapid availability of the individual members.
3. In mid-April, the SED fighting groups were reorganized. Units of 100 and 500 members were formed.
4. By late April, the fighting groups existing at individual railroad installations were scheduled to number 15 percent of the total work force of these agencies. By that time, all the members of the fighting groups were to have been made familiar with the handling of rifles, submachine guns, and machine guns.
5. In early May, a military training course took place for war veterans at Laucha. The trainees were scheduled to become instructors for the GST. A second course on machine guns and mortars was scheduled to begin on 6 May.
6. In early May, the companies (Hundertchaften) of the SED fighting groups in Brandenburg were subordinate to the SED factory organizations (Betriebspartei-organisation) (BPO) of SED Kreis headquarters in Brandenburg. The VP was only responsible for the training of the fighting groups.
7. After a purge had taken place in early May, the strength of the fighting group of a major enterprise in East Berlin was 75 men. All politically unreliable men and members who were not fully fit were eliminated. Women no longer belonged to the fighting group, which was organized into two combat platoons and one supply platoon. Field training was given every Saturday afternoon, and firing with small-bore rifles was practiced three times a month. Training directives were given by the Central Executive Board of the GST.

25X1

CLASSIFICATION ~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~

STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NSRB	DISTRIBUTION			
ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FBI				

25X1

25X1

SECRET/

- 2 -

8. In mid-May, GST training courses were under way at Teterow, Rechlin, Laucha, and Ballenstedt. 25X1
9. [REDACTED] 25X1
- all teachers of students older than 14 years were scheduled to be trained in weekend courses in order to enable them to train their students within the framework of GST activities. The air guns of the NJ were to be used for the training in firing. The members of the GST were, allegedly, to be issued uniforms.
10. The following training courses for GST instructors were scheduled to begin on 15 May:
At Schoenhagen in Bezirk Potsdam, for infantry training;
At Teterow, for motor-transport training;
At Rechlin, for naval training;
At Laucha, for radio operators
Between 21 May and 25 July, three courses for full-time functionaries of GST Kreis headquarters were scheduled to be held at Harsberg.
11. It was announced by the Central Executive Board of the GST that efforts were to be concentrated on the training of cadres in 1955. Industrial enterprises were ordered to release all personnel inducted for these courses. Prior to their discharge, VP members had to sign contracts that they were willing to act as unpaid GST trainers.
12. Between 23 May and 18 June, an additional training course for leaders of SED fighting groups was given at the VP school at Ludwigsfelde near Berlin. The course was attended by about 400 SED members employed in industrial enterprises or administrative agencies. The school was located near the Ludwigsfelde machine-tractor station, about 500 meters distant from the autobahn to Frankfurt/Oder. The installation was subordinate to the Praesidium of the Volkspolizei Berlin and was officially called "Ausbildungseinheit Ludwigsfelde" (training unit). The school was headed by Oberkommissar Malick. During the period mentioned, two training courses for members of the police were also given at the school. The training course for leaders of fighting groups was organized into four companies (Hundertschaften). Training in the handling of carbines, pistols, submachine guns, and light machine guns and tactical training was given. Emphasis was laid on the tactics for street fighting. For the duration of the course, the trainees were paid their normal salaries or wages by the Ministry of the Interior.
13. In May 1955, the Cadre Department attached to the Central GST Headquarters was directly assigned to Interior Minister Stoph and moved to a building of the Ministry of the Interior at Neuenhagen near Berlin. The order for this change had been given by the SED Central Committee. 2
14. In early June, the SED fighting groups at Exsenach were trained by members of the Kreis police.
15. In early June, the Central GST Headquarters moved from Halle to Neuenhagen near Berlin.
16. Elstner was made first deputy to Staimer, chief of the GST. Richard Gladewitz, a member of the FDJ secretary, was put in charge of political matters.

SECRET/

SECRET/

- 3 -

25X1

17. Leaders of SED fighting groups were being trained at the GST school at Laucha.

18. Since early June, an old cantonment located on the Juliusruh-Glowe highway at the southern edge of Juliusruh on Ruegez Island has been occupied to capacity by members of the GST.

25X1

19. In early June, 500 to 600 high-ranking leaders of SED fighting groups underwent a six-week training course at the previous Napola (national-socialist boarding school) at Ballenstedt. By the end of 1955, more than 4,000 leaders of fighting groups are scheduled to have undergone training in such courses.

20. On 9 June, firing with rifles was practiced by the Potsdam-West SED Fighting group at the target range of Bornstedt. The leaders of the fighting group had been trained at a special school in Weimar.

21. On 16 June, the fighting groups at Wittstock made a practice march. About 200 men participated.

25X1

1. Comment. A C-Bereitschaft of the DVP subordinate to the Police Presidium in Berlin is believed to be stationed at Ludwigsfelde.

25X1

2. Comment. These data indicate that the links between the GST and the Ministry of the Interior have been tightened. Since early 1955, the Ministry of the Interior has taken care of the finances and the equipment required by the GST.

25X1

SECRET/